



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

December 29, 2006

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *[Signature]*  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – PENNACLE  
FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED – LITTLE WINGS GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Little Wings Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Pennacle Foundation, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Little Wings Group Home is a three bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Little Wings Group Home was providing services for one DCFS child and one privately placed child.

Little Wings Group Home is located in the Second District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, the child's case records, a facility inspection, and an interview with the Los Angeles County child placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. The interview with the child is designed to obtain her perspective on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Little Wings Group Home needs to assess children for needed services within thirty days of placement.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jh

[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachments**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Greer Davis, Executive Director, Pennacle Foundation, Incorporated  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Pennacle Foundation, Incorporated  
Little Wings Group Home  
4324 5th Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90008  
Phone: (323) 298-5003  
License Number: 198203831  
Rate Classification Level: 14**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Little Wings Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: One**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the child was not assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

**Recommendations**

1. Little Wings Group Home management assess children for needed services within thirty days of placement.

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: One**

**Comments:**

The child is attending school. The child is provided with educational support and resources to meet her educational needs, and is progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of the child's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

The child is provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: One**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides the child with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. The child is provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

The child participates in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which she has an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size: One**

**Comments:**

The child is informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that she feels safe in the Group Home, and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of her interactions with staff, and reports that the staff treats her with respect and dignity.

The child reports that she is assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. The child is able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. The child is able to attend religious services of her choice.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks.

The child receives voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: One**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. The child is provided with opportunities to select her own clothes. Clothing provided to the child is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides the child with the required minimum weekly allowance. The child spends her allowance as she chooses.

The Group Home provides the child with adequate personal care items.

The child is encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining a photo album/life book.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**



*A Non-Profit Organization for the Developmentally Disabled Youth*  
Corporate (323) 750-7624 / fax (323) 753-1381 / Pgr (800) 800-9456

November 29, 2006

Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor  
County of Los Angeles  
Department of Auditor-Controller  
500 West temple Street, Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ms. Rhue,

The following is Pennacle Foundation response to the Corrective Action Plan report received 11/6/06

**Little Wings Group Home**  
4324 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90008

**A: Little Wings Group Home management assess children for needed services within thirty days of placement**

**IMPLEMENTED**

Shelia Welsh, LCSW has been informed that the NSP assessments must be completed within the time frame set forth by our contractual agreement which includes Title 22 regulations. The facility manager will ensure that these assessment are completed within this time frame.

Assistant Administrator is responsible for monitoring this CAP and to ensure that all implemented corrections remain working as intended.

Respectably Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carolyn C. Ruffin'.

Carolyn C. Ruffin, Assistant Administrator for  
Greer Y. Davis, Administrator